

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 015370

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY TOKYO

S E C R E T STATE 015370

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PARM, JA

SUBJECT: JAPAN AND NPT

1. MINISTER NISHIDA OF JAPANESE EMBASSY CALLED ON ZURHELLEN JANUARY 21 TO DISCUSS JAPANESE VIEW OF NPT REVIEW CONFERENCE SCHEDULED FOR MAY. NISHIDA STATED FOREIGN MINISTER MIYAZAWA IS ACTING ON ASSUMPTION NPT WILL BE PRESENTED TO CURRENT DIET FOR RATIFICATION AND HAS ORDERED ACCELERATION JAPANESE - IAEA SAFEGUARDS AGREEMENT NEGOTIATIONS. IN ORDER TO CORRECT PREVIOUS MISINFORMATION THAT MIYAZAWA DID NOT INTEND TO PRESS FOR NPT RATIFICATION AT THIS DIET SESSION, PRESS IN JAPAN HAS BEEN INFORMED AS ABOVE.

2. WHILE GOJ HAS HOPE THAT NPT MAY BE RATIFIED IN TIME TO PERMIT ATTENDANCE AT REVIEW CONFERENCE AS FULL PARTY, MUST TAKE INTO ACCOUNT POSSIBILITY THIS WILL NOT BE SO. IN EVENT JAPAN CANNOT ATTEND AS PARTY TO TREATY, GOJ NEVERTHELESS "QUITE ANXIOUS" TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND AS OBSERVER WITH STATUS AS CLOSE TO THAT OF FULL PARTY AS POSSIBLE. I.E., WHILE REALIZING IT WOULD HAVE NO VOTE OR VOICE IN DECISIONS, JAPAN WOULD LIKE TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND

SECRET

SECRET

PAGE 02 STATE 015370

ALL SESSIONS INCLUDING COMMITTEES. GOJ HOPES USG WILL

MOVE IN THIRD SESSION OF NPT PREPCOM ALONG THESE LINES.

3. NISHIDA SAID GOJ VERY ANXIOUS TO KEEP ITS APPROACH ABOUT OBSERVER STATUS COMPLETELY CONFIDENTIAL. IF LEAK OCCURS, SOME MAY INTERPRET THIS AS SIGN THAT GOJ HAS

GIVEN UP HOPE FOR TREATY RATIFICATION, WHICH NOT TRUE. MOREOVER, THERE WOULD BE SOME IN JAPAN WHO WOULD ARGUE THAT THERE WAS NO NEED TO RATIFY TREATY IF JAPAN OBTAINED POSITION AS OBSERVER.

4. ZURHELLEN EXPRESSED THANKS FOR INFORMATION REGARDING FOREIGN MINISTER'S INTENTIONS AND ASSURED NISHIDA APPROACH WOULD BE KEPT FOR USG KNOWLEDGE ONLY. HE TOLD NISHIDA THAT PRELIMINARY VIEW WAS THAT CONSIDERABLE SENTIMENT EXISTED FOR OBSERVER STATUS OF SOME KIND FOR SIGNATORIES WHO HAVE NOT RATIFIED BUT DETAILS REMAIN TO BE WORKED OUT IN PREPCOM AND ARE NOT, OF COURSE, SUBJECT TO UNILATERAL USG DETERMINATION. US DELEGATION WILL KEEP GOJ DESIRES IN MIND AND WILL REMAIN IN TOUCH WITH AMBASSADOR NISHIBORI IN GENEVA. KISSINGER

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